

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are currently pending, wherein claims 1, 2, 3, 12-15, 20-22 and 31-33 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the remarks presented herein below.

On page 2 of the Office action ("Action"), the Examiner objects to claim 12 because of a typographical error. Claim 12 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, thereby addressing the Examiner's concerns.

Further on page 2, the Examiner rejects claims 20 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,295,500 B2 to Nakano et al. ("Nakano"). Claims 20 and 31 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 21 and 32, respectfully, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

On page 3 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0196719 A1 to Morishima ("Morishima"). Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 14, respectfully, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

On page 6 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of Morishima, further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0048709 A1 to Van Woundenberg ("Van Woundenberg"). Claim 10 depends from claim 1, which has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

On page 7 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 11 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of Morishima, further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0014067 A1 to Iwata et al. ("Iwata"). Claims 11 and 29, depend from claims 1 and 20, respectfully, which have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 21, respectfully, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Penny L. Caudle, Registration No. 46,607 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: January 19, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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